

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, asserting that acronyms of German terms are improper. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection and submit that 37 CFR 1.84(p)(2) only requires that the English alphabet be used in reference characters. There is no requirement that the reference characters be abbreviations or acronyms of English words. Furthermore, applicants note that LTUC 1 is used to denote Line Trunk Unit 1 and SLMO1 is used to denote Subscriber Line Module 1, and are acronyms based on English words. Accordingly, applicants have respectfully maintained the Figures as filed.

Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) on EP 0920234 (hereinafter, "D1"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1, 10, 19 and 20 have been amended to recite that "connection related service features are provided via the transport network," a feature not disclosed or suggested by D1. D1 does not disclose or suggest providing any service features over a transport network. Instead, D1 discloses tunneling narrowband call control messages through a broadband network (col. 2, line 38, through col. 3, line 21). The broadband network of D1 is used merely to provide broadband data transport without affecting existing narrowband signaling infrastructures. While, as cited by the Examiner, D1 does disclose transporting trunking information over the broadband network (col. 8, line 57, through col. 9 line 17), this trunking information does not comprise connection related service features as recited in applicants' claims and further described in part at page 4, lines 1-21, of applicants' substitute specification. Claims 1, 10, 19 and 20 are therefore allowable.

Claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11-13, 16 and 18 depend from allowable claims and are therefore allowable due at least to their dependencies.

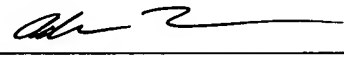
Claims 6, 7, 14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on D1 in view of WO 93 15583 (hereinafter, "D2"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As detailed above, the independent claims have been amended to recite that "connection related service features are

provided via the transport network.” D2, which is drawn to an interworking unit used to provide protocol changes between private and public networks, does not disclose this feature, nor has the Examiner cited D2 as doing so. Consequently, neither D1 nor D2, alone or in combination, discloses all of the features recited in independent claim 1, 10, 19 or 20. Accordingly, claims 6, 7, 14 and 17, which depend from allowable claims, are allowable due at least to their dependencies.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 449122024600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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